



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6261.0.55.001 - Characteristics of Wage and Salary Earners in Regions of Australia, 2002-03

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Summary

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INTRODUCTION

This publication presents regional estimates of the characteristics of wage and salary earners for the 2002-03 financial year, and selected data for the 2001-02 financial year, using the Remoteness Structure outlined within the **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Volume 1, 2001 (cat. no. 1216.0)**. Data for the years 1995-96 to 2000-01 were published in **Characteristics of Wage and Salary Earners in Regions of Australia, 2000-01 (cat. no. 6261.0.55.001)**.

The data presented illustrate the differences in the characteristics of employees living in urban, regional and remote parts of Australia and should provide regional analysts and service providers with insights about employment activity, occupations and variations in wage and salary incomes across different age and occupation groups. The data also enables comparisons of the differing earning levels of employees in the same occupations across regions which may add to the understanding of regional populations and economies. Overall, these data provide valuable and interesting information about the diversity of employees in different parts of the nation.

The estimates of the number of wage and salary earners and their characteristics, including age, sex, occupation and income, have been compiled from the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Individual Income Tax Return Database and are part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) program to increase the range of regional data available to users of regional statistics, particularly through the use of administrative information from other government agencies. The ABS wishes to acknowledge the support the ATO has provided in compiling these statistics. All individual income tax statistics provided by the ATO have been in aggregated form only. No information about individual taxpayers has been released to the ABS.

The Remoteness Structure, used as the geographic framework for this study, has been designed to provide an alternative geographic classification for the dissemination of statistics which enables comparison across five broad regions of Australia that are based on remoteness or distance from services. The five remoteness areas are Major Cities of Australia, Inner Regional Australia, Outer Regional Australia, Remote Australia and Very Remote Australia. A brief description and example of each remoteness area is provided in the **Glossary**. For further information relating to the remoteness structure refer to **Information Paper: ABS Views on Remoteness, 2001 (cat. no. 1244.0)** and **Information Paper: Outcomes on ABS Views on Remoteness Consultation, Australia, 2001 (cat. no. 1244.0.00.001)**.

Data on the characteristics of wage and salary earners across remoteness areas are provided below and should be read in conjunction with the **Explanatory Notes**. For further information about these or related statistics please contact the National Information Service on 1300 135 070, or Kirsten Hastwell on (08) 8237 7369.

DEFINITION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS

For the purposes of this publication **wage and salary earners** have been defined as:

persons aged 15 years and over who have submitted an individual income tax return and for whom wage and salary income was the principal (or main) source of income for the financial year.

The data presented within this publication does not take account of whether wage and salary earners worked on a full-time or part-time basis, had overtime earnings or had multiple job holdings. These factors may account for some of the differences when comparing median wage and salary incomes across regions. The data exclude persons in their own unincorporated businesses, such as farmers, who are not wage and salary earners, but do include people in their own incorporated business (that is, a company that has a legal status separate to that of the individuals involved). For further definitional clarification please refer to the **Explanatory Notes**.

SUMMARY POINTS

In 2002-03:

- The highest median annual wage and salary income for employees was in the remoteness area of Major Cities. Outside of Major Cities, employees in Remote and Very Remote areas recorded higher median annual wage and salary incomes than employees in Inner Regional and Outer Regional Australia.
- As the degree of remoteness increased, the proportion of male wage and salary earners in each remoteness area generally increased.
- Median wage and salary incomes for males were higher than those for females in all remoteness areas.
- In both the 25-34 year and 35-44 year age groups, the proportion of wage and salary earners outside of Major Cities increased as the degree of remoteness increased.
- The proportion of male wage and salary earners in the age group 55 years and over were consistently higher than the female proportions in all remoteness areas
- Across all remoteness areas, median wage and salary income increased with age, peaking in the 45-54 year age group.

Between 2001-02 and 2002-03:

- Major Cities, Inner Regional, Outer Regional and Remote areas recorded positive growth in the number of wage and salary earners. During this period, however, all remoteness areas recorded positive growth in the level of total wages and salaries paid (as the principal source of income).
- Median annual wage and salary income increased at the highest rate for males in Outer Regional areas. Females had the highest median annual wage and salary

income increase during this period within Remote Australia.

DISTRIBUTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS

In 2002-03, approximately 90% of Australia's wage and salary earners resided in Major Cities and Inner Regional areas, with 69.7% and 18.9% in these areas respectively. Outer Regional areas accounted for 9.3% of Australia's wage and salary earner population, while Remote and Very Remote areas comprised a combined 2.1% of total wage and salary earners resident in Australia.

In comparison, at 30 June 2003, it was estimated that 66.3% of Australia's total population were located in Major Cities, while Inner Regional areas accounted for 20.9%. Outer Regional areas comprised 10.3% of the total population, with Remote and Very Remote areas combined estimated to account for 2.5%. These proportions show that the distribution of wage and salary earners is similar to the distribution of the total population. They also broadly reflect the concentration of wage and salary earners within Major Cities areas, with the greater availability and versatility of employment opportunities within these regions.

In New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, approximately 75% of wage and salary earners resided in Major Cities, corresponding to total population estimates in these same areas of just over 70%.

Queensland recorded the lowest proportion of wage and salary earners residing within Major Cities at 55.9%, corresponding to a lower total population estimate of 52.7%. The proportion of wage and salary earners residing in Queensland's Inner Regional areas (including Gladstone and Hervey Bay) and Outer Regional areas (including Cairns and Port Douglas) were 23.1% and 17.6% respectively, higher than the national proportions of 18.9% and 9.3%. These figures are consistent with the greater distribution of Queensland's population along the coastal seaboard.

It was estimated that 45.6% of the Northern Territory's total population were located in Remote (including Alice Springs and Katherine) and Very Remote areas (including Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy) as at 30 June 2003. With 33.7% of its wage and salary earner population residing in these areas (19.9% and 13.7% respectively), the Northern Territory displays the largest differential between wage and salary earners and total population within these remoteness areas. In Tasmania, 65.9% of the wage and salary population were resident in Inner Regional areas (including Hobart and Launceston) and 31.8% in Outer Regional areas (including Georgetown and Latrobe), while 63.8% and 33.9% of the total population were residents in Inner Regional and Outer Regional areas respectively.

DISTRIBUTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS BY REMOTENESS AREA, States and Territories, 2002-03

	Major cities %	Inner regional %	Outer regional %	Remote %	Very remote %	Total(a) '000
New South Wales	75.6	18.3	5.7	0.4	0.1	2,532.3
Victoria	76.2	19.5	4.3	0.1	0.0	1,931.1
Queensland	55.9	23.1	17.6	2.4	1.1	1,446.0
South Australia	74.2	12.1	10.3	2.7	0.7	569.0
Western Australia	73.3	11.6	8.7	4.4	1.9	740.8
Tasmania	-	65.9	31.8	1.6	0.6	169.7

Northern Territory	-	-	66.3	19.9	13.7	74.6
Australian Capital Territory	99.8	0.2	-	-	-	150.2
Australia	69.7	18.9	9.3	1.5	0.6	7,613.7

(a) Excludes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness area.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

DISTRIBUTION OF ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION BY REMOTENESS AREA States and Territories, 30 June 2003

	Major cities %	Inner regional %	Outer regional %	Remote %	Very remote %	Total(a) '000
New South Wales	71.5	20.6	7.2	0.6	0.1	6,682.1
Victoria	73.4	21.3	5.2	0.1	0.0	4,911.4
Queensland	52.7	25.9	17.5	2.5	1.4	3,801.0
South Australia	71.1	12.6	11.7	3.0	0.9	1,526.3
Western Australia	70.5	12.7	9.6	4.7	2.6	1,949.9
Tasmania	-	63.8	33.9	1.8	0.5	477.3
Northern Territory	-	-	54.4	20.8	24.8	198.5
Australian Capital Territory	99.8	0.2	-	-	-	323.4
Australia	66.3	20.9	10.3	1.6	0.9	19,870.0

(a) Excludes Jervis Bay Territory, Territory of Christmas Island and Territory of Cocos Island.

Source: ABS, *Regional Population Growth, Australia and New Zealand 2003-04* (cat. no. 3218.0)

All of Australia's remoteness areas recorded positive growth in the number of wage and salary earners between 2001-02 and 2002-03, except for Very Remote areas (-0.2%) which continues to reflect a downward trend since 1996-97 (Note: The exclusion of Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) income from 1998-99 onwards could also be responsible for the observable decrease in the number of wage and salary earners and conversely the upward movement in the median annual wage and salary income for Remote and Very Remote areas. For further details please refer to the Explanatory Notes).

Inner Regional areas recorded the highest increase of wage and salary earners at 3.6%, followed by Major Cities and Outer Regional areas, both with increases of 2.0%. The growth in Inner Regional areas of wage and salary earners may be influenced by lifestyle choices and the relative affordability of these regions, whilst still offering high levels of accessibility to services and Major Cities areas (**Australian Social Trends, 2003** (cat. no. 4102.0)).

Total wage and salary income received by Australia's wage and salary earners was \$283.8 billion in 2002-03, increasing from \$267.4 billion in 2001-02 and \$259.6 billion in 2000-01.

In 2002-03, all remoteness areas recorded positive growth in the level of total wage and salary income. The growth in Inner Regional areas was greatest in percentage terms, recording an increase of 7.4% from 2001-02 and an average annual rate of increase of 5.4% over the 6 year period from 1996-97 to 2002-03. Remote areas recorded an increase in

2002-03 over the previous year of 4.8% and an average annual rate of increase of 2.1% between 1996-97 and 2002-03.

Major Cities contributed \$206.3 billion, or 72.7% of total wages and salaries paid in 2002-03, decreasing from 72.9% in 2001-02. Inner Regional areas have consistently increased its contribution to total wages and salaries paid, at 16.8% in 2002-03, 16.5% in 2001-02 and 16.2% in 2000-01. Very Remote areas contributed \$1.7 billion or 0.6% of Australia's total wages and salaries paid in 2002-03. The wages and salaries paid to employees in Major Cities and Inner Regional areas continue to increase at a higher rate than for employees in other regions, increasing the income disparity between these and other remoteness areas.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Remoteness Area, 1996-97 to 2002-03

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	% Change 2001-02 to 1996-97 to 2002-03 2002-03(a)	
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (no.)									
Major cities	4,984,589	5,083,685	5,148,414	5,194,329	5,227,031	5,201,940	5,307,867	2.0	1.1
Inner regional	1,292,080	1,317,926	1,336,494	1,347,744	1,361,808	1,388,536	1,438,424	3.6	1.8
Outer regional	686,672	695,281	695,557	693,029	688,313	692,968	707,005	2.0	0.5
Remote	121,525	122,077	118,161	114,354	112,428	111,745	112,295	0.5	-1.3
Very remote	62,057	61,848	53,204	51,595	50,232	48,186	48,080	-0.2	-4.2
Australia(b)	7,188,213	7,313,428	7,380,064	7,434,438	7,471,989	7,472,423	7,640,538	2.2	1.0
WAGE AND SALARY INCOME (\$m)									
Major cities	153,901	163,793	172,735	181,312	190,313	194,803	206,315	5.9	5.0
Inner regional	34,718	36,745	38,552	40,089	41,975	44,250	47,540	7.4	5.4
Outer regional	18,180	19,067	19,710	20,064	20,747	21,720	23,054	6.1	4.0
Remote	3,634	3,763	3,770	3,689	3,797	3,935	4,125	4.8	2.1
Very remote	1,701	1,753	1,672	1,661	1,688	1,657	1,737	4.8	0.3
Australia(b)	213,378	226,043	237,367	247,874	259,612	267,379	283,798	6.1	4.9

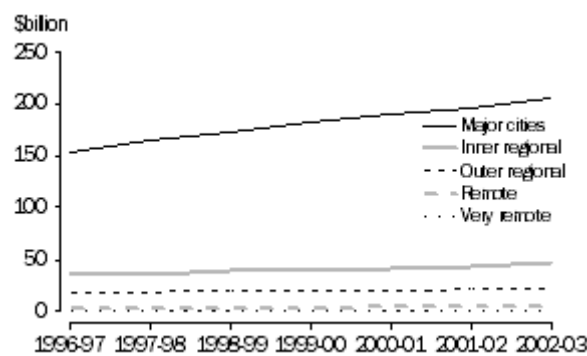
(a) Average annual rate of increase.

(b) Total includes data that could not be allocated to remoteness area.

Note: Indigenous persons engaged in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) may be included in the above data for the years 1996-97 to 1997-98 and excluded for 1998-99 onwards. Consequently, changes between 1997-98 and 1998-99 and 1996-97 and 2002-03 in particular need to be treated with caution. For further details please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

TOTAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Remoteness Area, 1996-97 to 2002-03



Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

The median annual wage and salary income for wage and salary earners in Australia, for the financial year 2002-03, was estimated at \$32,698, an increase of 3.9% over the previous year (\$31,483) and an average annual rate of increase for the period 1996-97 to 2002-03 of 3.3%. Very Remote areas had the highest average annual rate of increase of median annual wage and salary income over the period 1996-97 to 2002-03 at 5.3%, followed by Remote areas at 3.5%.

In 2002-03, employees in Remote and Very Remote areas recorded higher medians than employees in Inner Regional and Outer Regional Australia, moreover, Remote areas had the greatest percentage increase in median wage and salary income between 2001-02 and 2002-03 at 4.5%. Outer Regional and Very Remote areas followed at 4.2% and 4.0% respectively. The higher medians in these areas are likely to be influenced by the concentration of mining within these sectors, and the higher wage and salary packages offered to attract and retain skilled and semi-skilled employees within these regions (**AMP-NATSEM Income and Wealth Report, Issue 1, February 2002**). Inner Regional areas recorded the smallest percentage increase between 2001-02 and 2002-03 at 3.5%.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Remoteness Area, 1996-97 to 2002-03

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	% Change	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	2001-02 to 2002-03	1996-97 to 2002-03(a)
								%	%
Major cities	27,895	28,827	29,778	30,741	31,775	32,793	33,982	3.6	3.3
Inner regional	24,988	25,714	26,495	27,161	27,951	28,886	29,903	3.5	3.0
Outer regional	24,504	25,194	26,100	26,495	27,451	28,492	29,689	4.2	3.3
Remote	25,965	26,656	27,823	28,043	29,296	30,462	31,838	4.5	3.5
Very remote	22,950	23,754	27,495	27,983	29,137	30,046	31,243	4.0	5.3
Australia (b)	26,919	27,775	28,705	29,509	30,470	31,483	32,698	3.9	3.3

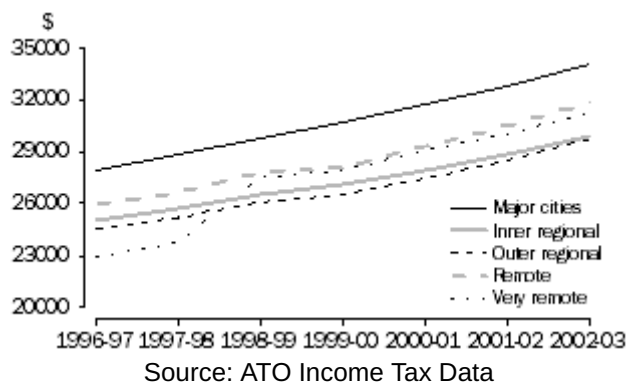
(a) Average annual rate of increase.

(b) Total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness area.

Note: The median is the mid value which divides a population distribution into two, with half of the observations falling below it and half above it. Median wage and salary income has been calculated from data provided in ranges and therefore distribution within a range has been assumed to be even. Care should be taken when using the data and the median treated as an estimate only).

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME(a), by Remoteness Area, 1996-97 to 2002-03



(a) Indigenous persons engaged in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) may be included in the data for the years 1996-97 to 1997-98 and excluded for 1998-99 onwards. Consequently, changes between 1997-98 and 1998-99 and 1996-97 and 2002-03 in particular need to be treated with caution. For further details please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

DISTRIBUTION BY SEX

In 2002-03 there were 4.1 million male (53.0%) and 3.6 million female (47.0%) wage and salary earners in Australia. As the degree of remoteness increased, the proportion of male wage and salary earners generally increased in each remoteness area. The proportion of male wage and salary earners in Major Cities was 52.6% compared with 56.0% in Remote areas. Conversely, the proportion of female wage and salary earners in Major Cities was 47.4% compared with 44.0% and 45.5% in Remote and Very Remote areas respectively.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Sex and Remoteness Area, 2002-03

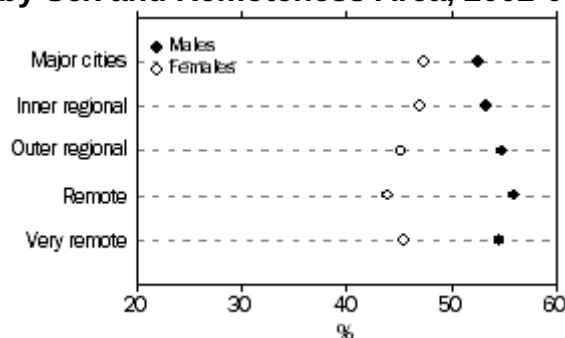
	Males no.	Females no.	Persons no.	Percentage within remoteness area	
				Males %	Females %
Major cities	2,792,924	2,514,923	5,307,847	52.6	47.4
Inner regional	768,169	670,233	1,438,402	53.4	47.0
Outer regional	387,563	319,415	706,978	54.8	45.2
Remote	62,894	49,408	112,302	56.0	44.0
Very remote	26,201	21,900	48,101	54.5	45.5
Australia(a)	4,052,635	3,587,905	7,640,540	53.0	47.0

(a) Total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness area.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Sex and Remoteness Area, 2002-03



In 2002-03 median wage and salary income for both males and females was highest in Major Cities at \$40,213 and \$27,945 respectively. The second highest median for males was in Remote areas at \$39,866, higher than the Australia wide median figure for males of \$38,909. Very Remote areas recorded the second highest median annual wage and salary income for females at \$25,164.

In 2002-03 the median wage and salary incomes for males were consistently higher than those for females in all remoteness areas. The difference between male and female median incomes was over \$10,000 in each region, with the highest difference in Remote and Very Remote areas (\$15,833 and \$13,035 respectively). The smallest difference between male and female median wage and salary income was in Outer Regional areas at \$11,888. These differences may be attributable to females being more likely to occupy lower paid positions and to be working on a part-time basis. In 2003 approximately 46% of employed women worked part-time, compared to around 15% of males (**Australian Social Trends, 2003 and 2004, (cat. no. 4102.0)**).

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Sex and Remoteness Area, 2002-03

	Males \$	Females \$	Persons \$
Major cities	40,213	27,945	33,982
Inner regional	36,447	23,929	29,903
Outer regional	35,660	23,772	29,689
Remote	39,866	24,033	31,838
Very remote	38,199	25,164	31,243
Australia(a)	38,909	26,633	32,698

(a) Total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness areas.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Sex and Remoteness Area, 2002-03



Source: ATO Income Tax Data

Between 2001-02 and 2002-03 median wage and salary incomes for males increased at the highest rate in Outer Regional areas at 4.5%, while for females the highest increase was in Remote areas at 4.4%.

The median wage and salary incomes for both male and female wage and salary earners increased between the years 1996-97 to 2002-03 at an average annual rate of growth of 3.3%. The highest male wage and salary income increase in this period was in Very Remote areas, which saw an average annual increase of 4.9%. The highest increase of female wage and salary income over this time period was in Very Remote areas at 6.2%, followed by

Remote areas at 4.2%.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Sex and Remoteness Area, 1996-97 to 2002-03

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	% Change 2001-02 to 1996-97 to 2002-03 2002-03(a) % %	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		
MALES									
Major cities	33,356	34,487	35,661	36,681	37,709	38,763	40,213	3.7	3.2
Inner regional	29,798	30,776	31,908	32,893	33,865	35,098	36,447	3.8	3.4
Outer regional	28,904	29,787	30,946	31,425	32,728	34,102	35,660	4.5	3.6
Remote	32,567	33,632	35,125	35,423	36,920	38,420	39,866	3.8	3.4
Very remote	28,666	29,364	34,113	34,439	35,879	36,662	38,199	4.2	4.9
Australia(b)	32,111	33,250	34,464	35,369	36,403	37,498	38,909	3.8	3.3
FEMALES									
Major cities	23,083	23,866	24,609	25,422	26,306	27,072	27,945	3.2	3.2
Inner regional	19,528	20,250	21,023	21,721	22,498	23,232	23,929	3.0	3.4
Outer regional	19,039	19,689	20,590	21,205	22,107	22,919	23,772	3.7	3.8
Remote	18,823	19,507	20,663	21,069	22,246	23,010	24,033	4.4	4.2
Very remote	17,534	18,400	21,396	22,192	23,229	24,139	25,164	4.2	6.2
Australia(b)	21,955	22,725	23,507	24,238	25,091	25,822	26,633	3.1	3.3

(a) Average annual rate of increase

(b) Total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness area.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data

DISTRIBUTION BY AGE

The proportion of wage and salary earners in each age group varies within each of the remoteness areas. The 25-34 year age group accounted for the largest proportion of wage and salary earners in Major cities and Very Remote areas (26.4% and 26.2% respectively), while in Inner Regional and Outer Regional areas the 35-44 year age group accounted for the largest proportion, both at 24.8%. In Remote Areas the 25-34 and 35-44 year age groups accounted for an equally high proportion of wage and salary earners at just over 25%.

In the 25-34 and 35-44 year age groups the proportion of wage and salary earners outside of Major Cities increased as the degree of remoteness increased. For example, in Inner Regional areas, 21.5% of wage and salary earners were aged 25-34 rising to 26.2% in Very Remote areas. In contrast, outside of Major Cities, the proportion of wage and salary earners in the 15-24, 45-54 and 55 and over age groups generally decreased in proportion as the degree of remoteness increased.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Age Group and Remoteness Area, 2002-03

	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55 years and over	Total

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (no.)

Major cities	1,000,277	1,399,456	1,257,363	1,084,365	566,387	5,307,847
Inner regional	280,665	309,269	356,351	331,019	161,097	1,438,402
Outer regional	138,289	162,840	175,320	154,227	76,302	706,978
Remote	21,294	28,651	28,611	22,721	11,025	112,302
Very remote	8,309	12,602	12,474	9,900	4,817	48,102
Australia(a)	1,453,625	1,920,376	1,836,361	1,607,639	822,489	7,640,490

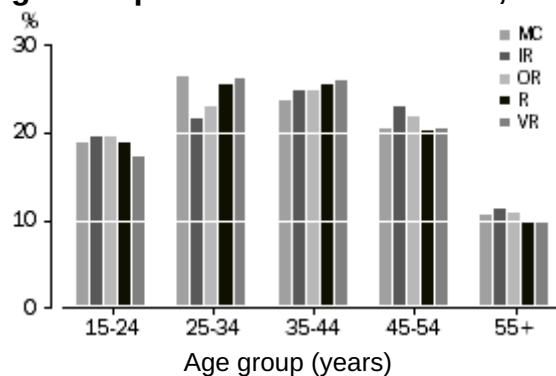
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (Percentage within Remoteness area)

Major cities	18.8	26.4	23.7	20.4	10.7	100.0
Inner regional	19.5	21.5	24.8	23.0	11.2	100.0
Outer regional	19.6	23.0	24.8	21.8	10.8	100.0
Remote	19.0	25.5	25.5	20.2	9.8	100.0
Very remote	17.3	26.2	25.9	20.6	10.0	100.0
Australia(a)	19.0	25.1	24.0	21.0	10.8	100.00

(a) Total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness area

Source: ATO Income Tax Data

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Age Group and Remoteness Area, 2002-03



Source: ATO Income Tax Data

Australia wide, median annual wage and salary increased with age, peaking in the 45-54 year age group at \$38,616. This figure is likely to be influenced by the propensity of wage and salaries earners within this age bracket benefiting financially from promotions, increased qualifications and employment tenure. Median annual wage and salary income was lowest in the 15-24 year age group at \$16,501, influenced by people in this age group beginning their careers, being in less skilled occupations and having lower levels of work experience and educational attainment. The past decade has also seen a rise in part-time employment among this age group, consistent with higher rates of participation in non-compulsory education (**Australian Social Trends, 2004, (cat. no. 4102.0)**).

Median annual wage and salary income was highest in Major Cities for all age groups except for those aged 15-24 years, where Very Remote areas recorded the highest median wage and salary for this age group at \$18,586. In general, as the degree of remoteness increased, median wage and salary incomes for those aged 15-24 years increased, from \$16,577 in Major Cities to \$18,586 in Very Remote areas. Due to the lower availability of educational facilities and accessibility to these services in Remote and Very Remote areas, wage and salary earners in the age group 15-24 are more likely to be working full time than combining part-time employment with non-compulsory schooling.

In 2002-03, Outer Regional areas had the lowest median annual wage and salary income for all age groups except the 15-24 year age group. Across all age groups the medians were greater in Remote and Very Remote areas than in the Inner Regional and Outer Regional

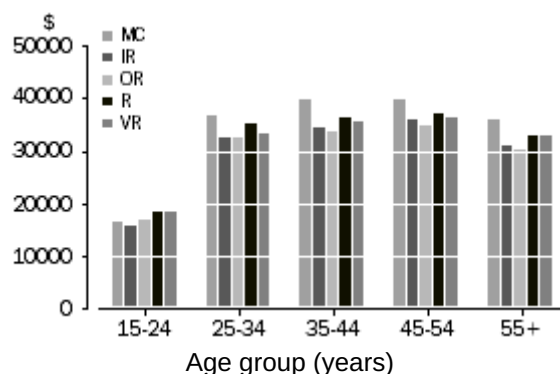
areas. This is likely to reflect the industry mix in each of these broad regions.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Age Group and Remoteness Area, 2002-03

	15-24 years \$	25-34 years \$	35-44 years \$	45-54 years \$	55 years and over \$	Total \$
Major cities	16,577	36,733	39,805	40,083	35,908	33,982
Inner regional	15,813	32,560	34,444	35,978	31,211	29,903
Outer regional	17,097	32,513	33,714	34,799	30,306	29,687
Remote	18,540	35,090	36,443	36,953	32,793	31,819
Very remote	18,586	33,203	35,586	36,564	33,050	31,183
Australia(a)	16,501	35,605	37,991	38,616	34,410	32,697

(a) Total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness area.
Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Age Group and Remoteness Area, 2002-03



Source: ATO Income Tax Data

DISTRIBUTION BY AGE BY SEX

In 2002-03, the proportion of male wage and salary earner populations in the age group 55 years and over were consistently higher in all remoteness area than the female populations within the same age group. The highest proportion of both male and female wage and salary earners in this age group were residing in Inner Regional areas at 12.5% and 9.7% respectively. The lowest proportion of males within this age group was in Remote areas at 10.9% and for females Very Remote areas at 8.3%.

Males aged 55 years and over continue to have a higher participation rate in the labour force than females 55 years and over, consistent with the eligibility of females to receive the age pension before the age of 65 years. The proportion of people in the labour force aged 45-64 years continues to grow, reflecting a range of legislative and policy initiatives designed to decrease incentives for early retirement (**Australian Social Trends, 2004 (cat. no. 4102.0)**).

Both males and females in the age category 15-24 had the lowest proportion of wage and salary earners located in Very Remote areas, while in the 35-44 year age category, the lowest proportion of wage and salary earners for both males and females was in Major Cities (24.1% and 23.2% respectively). Overall, outside of Major Cities areas, as the degree of remoteness increased the proportion of male and female wage and salary earners aged

25-34 and 35-44 years of age increased.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Age Group, Sex and Remoteness Area, 2002-03

MALES (Percentage within Remoteness Area)						
	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55 years and over	Total
Major cities	18.0	26.2	24.1	19.8	11.8	100.0
Inner regional	19.3	21.9	24.3	22.0	12.5	100.0
Outer regional	19.6	23.4	24.3	20.8	11.9	100.0
Remote	18.7	25.5	25.2	19.6	10.9	100.0
Very remote	16.9	25.6	25.7	20.4	11.5	100.0
Australia(a)	18.4	25.1	24.2	20.3	11.9	100.0

FEMALES (Percentage within Remoteness Area)						
	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55 years and over	Total
Major cities	19.7	26.5	23.2	21.2	9.4	100.0
Inner regional	19.8	21.1	25.3	24.2	9.7	100.0
Outer regional	19.5	22.6	25.4	23.0	9.4	100.0
Remote	19.3	25.5	25.8	21.0	8.4	100.0
Very remote	17.8	26.9	26.3	20.8	8.3	100.0
Australia(a)	19.7	25.2	23.8	21.9	9.4	100.0

(a) Total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness area.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

DISTRIBUTION BY OCCUPATION

The proportion of wage and salary earners in each occupation group varies within each of the remoteness areas. Occupation groups such as Managers and administrators; Professionals; and Advanced clerical and service workers tended to decrease in proportion as remoteness increased whereas occupation groups such as Tradespersons and related workers; Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers; and Elementary clerical, sales and service workers generally increased in proportion as remoteness increased.

Occupation data compiled from the ATO database includes a high proportion of wage and salary earners for whom the occupation was not stated or not coded. Care should therefore be taken when analysing the occupation distribution. Over the period for which this series has been compiled, the proportion of persons in the "not stated" category has decreased each year from around 27% in 1995-96 to 10.7% in 2002-03. It should also be noted that the proportion in the "not stated" category decreases with remoteness and may account for some of the apparent differences in occupations in the different remoteness areas. In Major Cities 11.2% of wage and salary earners did not state their occupation in 2002-03, decreasing to 6.9% in Very Remote areas. Further information is contained in the **Glossary** under Occupation.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Occupation(a) and Remoteness Area, 2002-03

Manag- ers and admini- strators	Profess- ionals	Associ- ate prof- ession- als	Trades- persons and related workers	Advanc- ed clerical and service workers	Interme- diate clerical, sales and service	Interme- diate product- ion and transport workers	Element- ary clerical, sales and service	Labour- ers and related workers	Not stated	Total
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workers

workers

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (no.) (b)

Major cities	532,759	1,056,907	368,297	506,681	178,512	954,740	321,271	495,690	436,544	614,907	5,466,307
Inner regional	113,022	234,530	93,144	176,013	35,150	244,216	107,639	149,798	178,249	139,129	1,470,890
Outer regional	51,677	103,374	43,849	86,624	14,211	115,302	60,268	70,347	111,427	65,351	722,431
Remote	8,177	15,816	7,415	14,984	2,059	16,993	12,887	9,953	18,193	8,583	115,060
Very remote	3,585	7,704	3,734	5,873	771	7,883	4,669	3,798	7,920	3,429	49,365
Australia(c)	712,348	1,424,273	518,480	792,444	231,541	1,343,636	508,204	731,491	754,698	837,416	7,854,531

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (Percentage within Remoteness Area)

Major cities	9.7	19.3	6.7	9.3	3.3	17.5	5.9	9.1	8.0	11.2	100.0
Inner regional	7.7	15.9	6.3	12.0	2.4	16.6	7.3	10.2	12.1	9.5	100.0
Outer regional	7.2	14.3	6.1	12.0	2.0	16.0	8.3	9.7	15.4	9.0	100.0
Remote	7.1	13.7	6.4	13.0	1.8	14.8	11.2	8.6	15.8	7.5	100.0
Very remote	7.3	15.6	7.6	11.9	1.6	16.0	9.5	7.7	16.0	6.9	100.0
Australia(c)	9.1	18.1	6.6	10.1	17.1	6.5	9.3	9.6	9.6	10.7	100.0

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 2nd Edition.

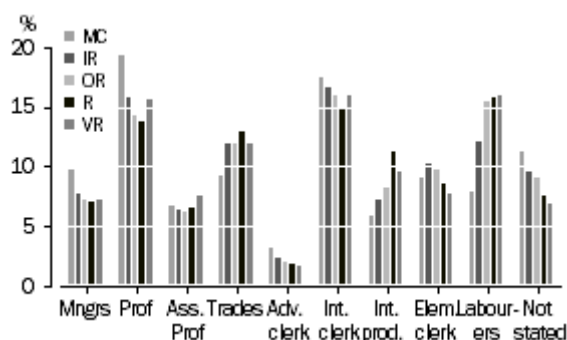
(b) Occupation based data was extracted from ATO datasets after the extraction of the data on other characteristics of wage and salary earners had occurred. This has resulted in more records been processed at the time of the second extract as can be seen in the higher totals in the occupation data.

(c) Australia total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness area.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

**PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS,
by Occupation(a) and Remoteness Area, 2002-03**



(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 2nd Edition.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

In 2002-03, Managers and administrators had the highest median annual wage and salary income (\$47,611), followed by Professionals (\$45,640) and Associate professionals (\$39,594). The median annual wage and salary income for Managers and administrators substantially decreased outside of Major Cities.

Reflecting the skills required in the major industry sectors of primary production and mining, Intermediate production and transport workers had the highest median income from wages and salaries in Remote and Very Remote areas at \$49,983 and \$50,117 respectively.

Elementary clerical, sales and service workers had the lowest median annual wage and

salary income in every remoteness area. In Major Cities, Elementary clerical, sales and service workers had a median annual wage and salary income of \$17,215 while in Very Remote areas it was \$19,795.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Occupation(a) and Remoteness Area, 2002-03

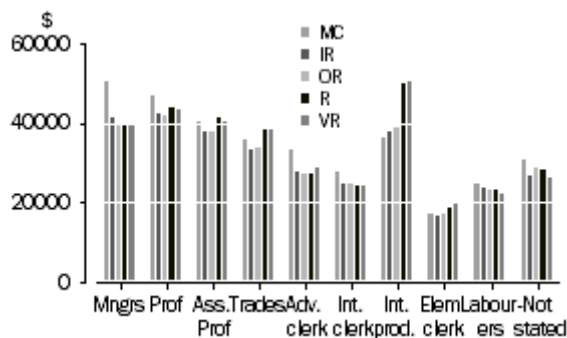
	Manag- ers and admini- strators	Profession- als	Associ- ate profes- sion- als	Trades- persons and related workers	Advanc- ed clerical and service workers	Interme- diate clerical, sales and service workers	Interme- diate product- ion and transport workers	Element- ary clerical, sales and service workers	Labour- ers and related workers	Not stated	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Major cities	50,233	46,825	40,282	35,895	33,080	27,846	36,197	17,215	24,572	31,002	34,028
Inner regional	41,163	42,420	37,676	33,384	27,895	24,799	37,561	16,514	23,700	26,472	29,913
Outer regional	39,136	42,026	37,735	33,560	27,364	24,704	38,819	17,305	23,041	28,509	29,684
Remote	39,659	43,824	41,130	38,336	27,015	24,177	49,983	18,392	23,241	28,300	31,751
Very remote	39,160	43,599	40,565	38,257	28,792	24,253	50,117	19,795	22,302	25,947	31,137
Australia(b)	47,611	45,640	39,594	35,091	31,835	26,842	37,071	17,102	24,072	29,819	32,728

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 2nd Edition.

(b) Total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness area.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Occupation(a) and Remoteness Area, 2002-03



(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 2nd Edition.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

About this Release

Contains regional estimates for various characteristics of wage and salary earners, including age, sex, occupation and income for 2002-03. The statistics have been compiled from the Australian Taxation Office's Individual Income Tax Return Database and are part of the ABS' program to increase the range of regional data available to users of regional statistics, particularly through the use of administrative information from other government agencies.

Regional estimates are presented using the Remoteness Structure contained within the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Volume 1, 2001. The Remoteness Structure has been designed to provide an alternative geographic classification for the

dissemination of statistics which enables comparison across five broad regions of Australia that are based on remoteness or distance from services. The five remoteness areas are Major Cities, Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote Australia and Very Remote Australia.

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. This publication contains estimates of the characteristics of wage and salary earners, including age, sex and income, for the five major regions that form the Remoteness Structure within the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC).
2. These data have been compiled from the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Individual Income Tax Return Database, based on individual tax returns lodged for the financial year ended 30 June.
3. The ABS wishes to acknowledge the support of the Australian Taxation Office in compiling these statistics and in assisting the ABS to increase output and dissemination of aggregated regional data relevant to users of regional statistics.

CONFIDENTIALITY

4. All individual income tax statistics provided to the ABS by the ATO have been in aggregated form only, at the Statistical Local Area (SLA) level. Information relating to individual tax payers has not been released to the ABS. Data for the five remoteness areas have been derived from the aggregated SLA data.
5. Prior to being released to the ABS, ATO data have been subjected to a confidentiality process that randomly adjusts cells in tables with small values, including altering some small cells to zero. Under these circumstances caution should be exercised and, in general, no reliance should be placed on cells with small values in tables. The application of this process prevents the risk of inadvertently releasing information that may identify an individual, without general detriment to the overall information value of the statistics.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

6. The ATO database covers all individuals who submit an individual tax return and includes persons with income from one or more of a range of sources such as wages and salary, own business, superannuation, investments and government pensions, benefits and allowances. The scope of the ATO statistics presented in this electronic release relate only to persons with wage and salary income.
7. As the ATO's income tax return is designed to obtain a person's total income from various sources over a financial year, and not the employment status of a person at a particular point in time, wage and salary earners have been defined as:

persons aged 15 years and over who have submitted an individual income tax return and for whom wage and salary income was the principal (or main) source of income for the financial year.

8. Wage and salary income, as reported on the income tax return, includes gross income as shown on the 'PAYG payment summary- individual non-business' as well as allowances, commissions, bonuses, tips, gratuities, consultation fees, honoraria and other payments for services. The data to define and compile counts of wage and salary earners have been sourced from questions 1 and 2 on the 2002-03 individual income tax return. (Note: PAYG (Pay as You Go) payment summaries were previously known as Group Certificates).

9. A diagram summarising the ABS categorisation of persons reporting wage and salary incomes on individual tax returns can be found in the Explanatory Notes of the previous ABS release **Characteristics of Wage and Salary Earners in Regions of Australia, 2000-01 (cat. no. 6261.0.55.001)**.

STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY

10. The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) is used by the ABS for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics and its use enables comparability across datasets. The ASGC is an essential reference to understanding and interpreting the geographical context of statistics published, by not only the ABS but also state and other commonwealth agencies.

11. This publication presents data based on the Remoteness Structure outlined within the **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Volume 1, 2001 (cat. no. 1216.0)**. As the Remoteness Structure is defined only in Census years, commencing with the census year 2001, 2002-03 SLA data was concorded to the 2001 remoteness areas.

12. The remoteness structure is based upon the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) which was developed for the Department of Health and Aging (formally known as the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care) by the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographical Information Systems (GISCA). ARIA measures the remoteness of a point based on road distances to the nearest ABS defined Urban Centres (classified to five population sizes). The basic premise of ARIA is that remoteness is a factor of the relative distance one must travel to access a full range of services.

13. The Remoteness Structure contains the following categories:

- Major Cities of Australia
- Inner Regional Australia
- Outer Regional Australia
- Remote Australia
- Very remote Australia
- Migratory

For further clarification the **Glossary** provides examples of what is contained within each remoteness area.

14. As the Remoteness Structure is based on the grouping of spatial units of Census Collection Districts (CDs), the Migratory classification (areas composed of off-shore, shipping and migratory CD's) has been added to make the structure inclusive of all CD's in Australia. However, Migratory areas have been excluded from the statistics presented within this publication as people do not record these areas as their residential address when completing administrative forms such as the income tax return.

15. The ABS uses geographic concordances to enable the conversion of data from one type

of geographic region to another. Geographic concordances are expressed as conversion factors based on population.

16. The geographic identifier available on the ATO database is the postcode of the current home address of the individual. Consequently, postcode to SLA conversion factors have been used to concord ATO aggregated postcode data estimates for statistical local area. The wage and salary data for SLAs was then concorded to the Remoteness Structure. The concordances are based on the estimated resident population for each particular year. Data for 2002-03 were calculated for boundaries effective at 1 July 2003 as defined in the detailed main structure of the **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2003 (cat. no. 1216.0)**.

17. Concording data for small geographic areas such as postcodes to larger geographic areas such as SLAs and remoteness areas:

- minimises confidentiality restrictions as data are not output for postcodes with small populations;
- enables the data to be output for other standard ABS geographic areas including Statistical Division (SDs), Statistical Sub-divisions (SSDs), Local Government Areas (LGAs), and Remoteness Structure Classes.

18. When analysing the statistics the following limitations of the concordance methodology need to be noted;

- in applying the concordances it is assumed that the particular characteristics of any data item are uniformly distributed across a postcode and therefore concorded data may not truly reflect the distribution of the characteristics of a population.
- some official postcodes (e.g. PO boxes, etc.) do not correspond to residential areas but have still been reported under the current home address field. Data for these and other 'invalid' postcodes have been included in an 'unknown' category for each state and territory and for Australia where the state or territory was not known.
- Data that could not be directly classified to one of the Remoteness Structure classes have been excluded from most tables. The effect of this is minimal as the population in the unknown category is less than 0.6%.

OCCUPATION CLASSIFICATION

19. The occupation data in this publication is based on the **Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 2nd Edition (cat. no. 1220.0)**. Occupation data published in the previous edition of this publication, **Characteristics of Wage and Salary Earners in Regions of Australia, 2000-01 (cat. no. 6261.0.55.001)**, were based on the 1st edition of this occupation classification.

COMPARABILITY OF RESULTS WITH ABS COLLECTIONS

20. The wage and salary earner estimates compiled from the ATO database have been compared with other ABS sources including the Census of Population and Housing and the Labour Force Survey. Despite differences in purpose, concepts, definitions and reference periods, the statistics compiled from the ATO database have been found to be generally consistent when compared to these other data sources. A summary of these comparisons can be found in the previously published **Information Paper: Use of Individual Income Tax Data for Regional Statistics, Experimental Estimates for Small Areas, 1995-96 and 1997-97 (cat. no. 5673.0)** and in the accompanying appendix to **Regional Wage and**

21. A diagram summarising the basic components of the employed population, as defined in ABS collections, can be found in **Characteristics of Wage and Salary Earners in Regions of Australia, 2000-01 (cat. no. 6261.0.55.001).**

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS

22. Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) enables Indigenous persons to exchange unemployment benefits for opportunities to undertake work and training in their communities. Changes in the treatment of persons reporting CDEP income in individual income tax returns have possibly produced variations in the level of some data items, particularly for Remote and Very Remote areas. The number of Indigenous persons residing in Remote and Very Remote areas relative to the total population means that the impact of these changes to the definition of wage and salary earners adopted for these data is significant for these areas.

23. From 1998-99 onwards, specific instructions were included in the ATO TaxPack regarding treatment of CDEP payments. These instructions indicated amounts paid from CDEP should be included under the category 'Commonwealth of Australia Government Allowances or Payments'. Prior to 1998-99 such an instruction was not included in TaxPack and, as CDEP income was generally shown on group certificates as 'CDEP Salary or Wages,' it is likely that CDEP income was included under the wages and salaries category for previous years.

24. The exclusion of CDEP income from 1998-99 onwards is more than likely responsible for the observable decrease in the number of wage and salary earners and conversely the upward movement in the median annual wage and salary income for Remote and Very Remote areas. The Independent Review of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission's (ATSIC) CDEP Scheme, conducted in 1997, recognised that CDEP provided mostly low-paid, part-time work. ATSIC Annual Reviews in 1997-98 and 1998-99 reported that 96% of CDEP recipients were located in regional Australia with 65% being located in remote areas (which would equate to Very Remote Australia in the Remoteness Structure). The annual reviews indicated that CDEP wages in remote areas were around \$195 per week. The increased number of persons included in wage and salary earners combined with low wages and salaries paid had consequently had the effect of lowering the overall average and median incomes for Very Remote areas.

25. It is expected that the statistics from 1998-99 onward provide a truer and more consistent reflection of the data in these regions. Any comparisons between 1997-98 and 1998-99 and 1996-97 and 2002-03 in particular need to be treated with caution.

OTHER CAVEATS

26. Some other limitations need to be taken into account when analysing the data. For example,

- a number of low income earners, including wage and salary earners, are not required to submit a tax return and therefore may not be included in the statistics. For example, where income is below the annual tax free threshold and tax was not withheld, a return is not required to be submitted.
- the data do not take into account whether wage and salary earners worked full-time or part-time, had multiple job holdings or overtime earnings. Consequently, these factors

may account for some of the differences when comparing average or median wage and salary incomes or other characteristics of wage and salary earners across regions.

- generally, around 95% of individual income tax returns for any income tax year have been processed within one year and around 99% within two years of the end of the income tax year. It may be possible that a very small proportion of returns had not been processed at the time these statistics were compiled and therefore would not be included in the estimates presented.

27. The points outlined above are considered to be relatively minor limitations which do not impede the general use of the data for the broad purposes intended.

ROUNDING

28. Due to the application of both the postcode concordance and the randomisation process, totals for each geographic area may differ from table to table. Concorded figures have been rounded while column and row totals have been derived after the random adjustment process has been applied. The randomisation of small cells had only been applied to the SLA level and for most purposes the value of the data has not been impaired.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
CDEP	Community Development Employment Project
ETP	eligible termination payment
IR	Inner Regional
LGA	local government area
MC	Major Cities
OR	Outer Regional
PAYG	pay as you go
PO	Post Office
R	Remote
SD	statistical division
SLA	statistical local area
SSD	statistical subdivision
VR	Very Remote
\$b	billion dollars
\$m	million dollars
-	not applicable or figure not calculated

Glossary

GLOSSARY

Income tax year

Refers to the financial year, i.e. 1 July to 30 June. Note: Wages and salaries for some taxpayers may not relate to a whole year's employment or may relate to more than one job

during the year.

Incorporated business

An incorporated enterprise is a company that has a registered business name with the Australian Securities Commission and a legal status that is separate to that of the individuals involved.

Local Government Area (LGA)

These areas are the spatial units which represent the geographical areas of incorporated local government councils and incorporated Community Government Councils (CGCs) where the CGC is of sufficient size and statistical significance. The various types of LGAs are cities (C), areas (A), boroughs (B), rural cities (RC), towns (T), shires (S), district councils (DC) and municipalities (M).

Median wage and salary income

The median is the mid value which divides a population distribution into two, with half of the observations falling below it and half above it. Median wage and salary income has been calculated from data provided in ranges and therefore the distribution within a range has been assumed to be even. Care should be taken when using the data and the median treated as an estimate only. Medians have not been calculated for areas with small numbers of wage and salary earners.

PAYG payment summary - individual non-business

A summary received at the end of the financial year by a wage or salary earner which details amounts earned from the employer during the year and the tax withheld. (Note: Previously called Group Certificate).

Principal source of income

The source from which the most income was received during the financial year.

Statistical Local Area (SLA)

These geographical areas are in most cases identical with, or have been formed from a division of, whole LGAs. In other cases, they represent unincorporated areas. In aggregate, SLAs cover the whole of a state or territory without gaps or overlaps. In some cases legal LGAs overlap Statistical Subdivision boundaries and therefore comprise two or three SLAs (Part A, Part B and, if necessary, Part C).

Wage and salary earners

Persons aged 15 years and over who have submitted a tax return and for whom wage and salary income was the principal or main source of income for the financial year.

Wage and salary income

Includes gross income as shown on the 'PAYG (Pay As You Go) payment summary - individual non-business' as well as allowances, commissions, bonuses, tips, gratuities, consultation fees, honoraria and other payments for services. Allowances and other earnings may include car, travel or transport allowances, allowances for tools, clothing or laundry and dirt, risk, meal or entertainment allowances, etc. The statistics were compiled

from questions 1 and 2 on the individual income tax return (2002-03).

Urban Centres

In broad terms, an urban centre represents a population cluster of 1,000 or more people. Urban centres are aggregates of CDs (Collection Districts) and are only defined in Census years.

DATA CLASSIFICATIONS

Age

15 - 24 years
25 - 34 years
35 - 44 years
45 - 54 years
55 years and over

Sex

Males
Females

Wage and Salary Income (Annual)

\$1 to less than \$10,400
\$10,400 to less than \$20,800
\$20,800 to less than \$31,200
\$31,200 to less than \$41,600
\$41,600 to less than \$52,000
\$52,000 to less than \$78,000
\$78,000 or more

REMOTENESS STRUCTURE - AUSTRALIAN STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION

Remoteness area	Description	Examples
Major cities	Geographic distance imposes minimal restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.	Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Melbourne, Geelong, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Adelaide, Perth and Canberra.
Inner regional	Geographic distance imposes some restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.	Tamworth, Wagga Wagga (New South Wales), Ballarat, Bendigo (Victoria), Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Gladstone (Queensland), the Adelaide Hills (South Australia), Bunbury (Western Australia), Hobart and Launceston (Tasmania).
Outer regional	Geographic distance imposes a moderate restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.	Broken Hill, Griffith, Gunnedah (New South Wales), Horsham, Swan Hill, Traralgon (Victoria), Roma, Cairns (Queensland), Port Augusta, Mount Gambier (South Australia), Albany (Western Australia), Burnie (Tasmania), and Darwin (Northern Territory).

Remote	Geographic distance imposes a high restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.	Cobar (New South Wales), the northern Wimmera district (Victoria), Charters Towers and Cooktown (Queensland), Port Lincoln (South Australia), the Kalgoorlie gold-fields (Western Australia), parts of the West Coast (Tasmania), Alice Springs, Katherine (Northern Territory).
Very remote	Geographic distance imposes the highest restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.	The far west parts of New South Wales and Queensland, northern South Australia and Western Australia, most of the Northern Territory and Flinders and King Islands in Bass Strait (Tasmania).

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